

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 5, 2009

The Honorable Barack H. Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500  
by facsimile: (202) 456-3343

Dear President Obama:

As members of the Congressional Rural Caucus, we welcome the announcement of your administration's rural tour. Experiencing rural America is vital to understanding the complex challenges facing many proud communities today. With that in mind, we invite you to visit our communities and see for yourself the fabric of our country.

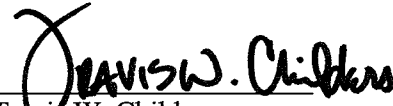
Our nation faces unprecedented economic challenges, and rural communities across the country offer innovative solutions. Throughout the rural tour, we are sure you and your top officials will be educated on a wide range of topics which are unique to rural America and offer insight into what makes our country great. The rural way of life is forever changing, and the dedication to entrepreneurship and innovation is exceedingly prevalent in some of the smallest places of the country.

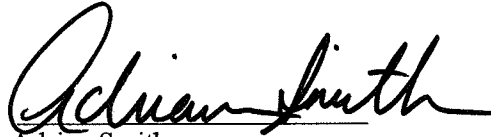
The Congressional Rural Caucus wants what is best for our constituents and for America. Together, we are working to find creative solutions and commonsense approaches to the many problems plaguing our nation, both rural and urban. This is why earlier this year, we wrote you regarding the establishment of an Office of Rural Policy to work hand-in-hand with the Office of Urban Policy.

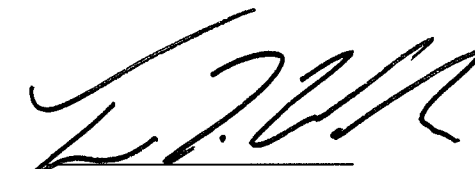
As the rural tour events continue through the August recess, we respectfully request you make it a priority to visit some of the stops personally. At the very least, upon conclusion of the rural tour, we would like to arrange a meeting between your top officials and the Congressional Rural Caucus to share bipartisan information about the many issues of specific importance to our constituents. This, along with the establishment of the Office of Rural Policy, will undoubtedly help inform your administration on the constantly changing face of rural America.

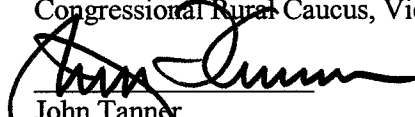
Thank you for your consideration of our requests. We look forward to working closely with you on the matters of concern to the millions of Americans in the rural congressional districts we represent, as well as your responses.

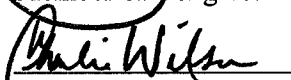
Very sincerely,


  
Travis W. Childers  
Member of Congress  
Congressional Rural Caucus, Co-Chair

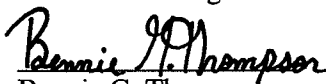
  
Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress  
Congressional Rural Caucus, Co-Chair

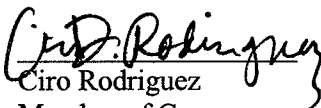
  
Tim Walz  
Member of Congress  
Congressional Rural Caucus, Vice-Chair


  
John Tanner  
Member of Congress

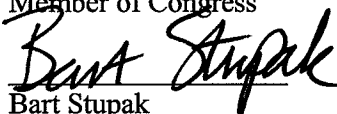
  
Charlie Wilson  
Member of Congress

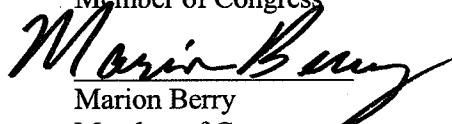
  
Denny Rehberg  
Member of Congress

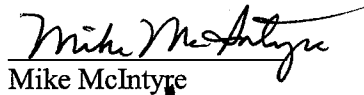
  
Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

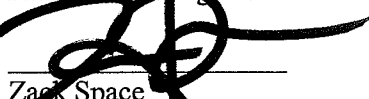
  
Ciro Rodriguez  
Member of Congress

  
Michael H. Michaud  
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Bart Stupak  
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Marion Berry  
Member of Congress

  
Mike McIntyre  
Member of Congress


  
Zack Space  
Member of Congress

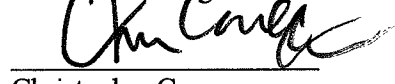
  
Parker Griffith  
Member of Congress

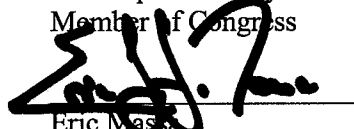
  
Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress  
Congressional Rural Caucus, Vice-Chair


  
Tim Johnson  
Member of Congress

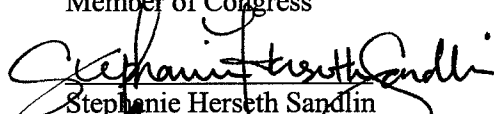
  
Tom Perriello  
Member of Congress

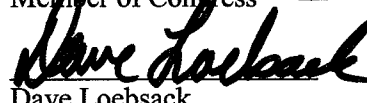
  
Ike Skelton  
Member of Congress


  
Christopher Carney  
Member of Congress

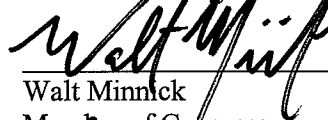
  
Eric Massa  
Member of Congress


  
Sanford Bishop  
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Stephanie Herseth Sandlin  
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Dave Loebsack  
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Jo Ann Emerson  
Member of Congress

  
Walt Minnick  
Member of Congress

  
Lincoln Davis  
Member of Congress



Debbie Halvorson

Member of Congress